(a) administering a cell cycle blocking agent to said patient, wherein said cell cycle blocking agent is a member selected from the group consisting of taxol, taxolene, and a vinca alkaloid; and

(b) administering said nucleic acid to said patient within seven days of step (a).

47. (Once Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein said cell cycle blocking agent is a member selected from the group consisting of cyclophosphamide, taxol, and vincristine.

69. (Once Amended) A method of inhibiting growth of cancer cells in a patient having a cancer comprising introducing a nucleic acid comprising a foreign therapeutic gene into a cell in a patient having cancer, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) administering a cell cycle blocking agent to said patient, wherein said cell cycle blocking agent is a member selected from the group consisting of taxol, taxolene, and a vinca alkaloid; and

(b) administering said nucleic acid to said patient within seven days of step (a), wherein said nucleic acid is administered systemically.

74. (Once Amended) A method of treating a patient having a cancer comprising introducing a nucleic acid comprising a foreign therapeutic gene into a cell in said patient, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) administering a cell cycle blocking agent to said patient, wherein said cell cycle blocking agent is a member selected from the group consisting of taxol, taxolene, and a vinca alkaloid; and

(b) administering said nucleic acid to said patient within seven days of step (a), wherein said nucleic acid is administered in a lipid formulation comprising a cationic lipid and a lipid derivative selected from the group consisting of an ATTA-lipid, a polyethylene glycol (PEG)-lipid derivative, and a ganglioside G_{M1}-modified lipid,

wherein said nucleic acid is fully encapsulated in said lipid formulation such that less than 5% of the nucleic acid is degraded after exposure of said formulation to 1 U DNAse I for 30 minutes in digestion buffer at 37°C.

77. (Once Amended) The method of claim 74, wherein said lipid derivative is present in an amount of from about 1% to about 20% by weight of the lipid formulation.

78. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein said lipid formulation is prepared by the method comprising:

(a) contacting said nucleic acid with a solution comprising non-cationic lipids and a detergent to form a nucleic acid-lipid mixture;

(b) contacting said cationic lipid with the nucleic acid-lipid mixture, thereby forming a charge-neutralized mixture of nucleic acids and lipids; and

(c) removing the detergent from the charge-neutralized mixture to provide the lipid-nucleic acid particles in which the nucleic acids are protected from degradation.

79. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the vinca alkaloid is a member selected from the group consisting of vinblastine, vincristine, and vinorelbine,

80. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the nucleic acid is in a lipid formulation.

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81. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein the nucleic acid is fully encapsulated in a lipid formulation such that less than 5% of the nucleic acid is degraded after exposure of said formulation to 1 U DNAse I for 30 minutes in digestion buffer at 37°C.

82. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein said lipid formulation is prepared by the method comprising:

(a) contacting said nucleic acid with a solution comprising non-cationic lipids and a detergent to form a nucleic acid-lipid mixture;

(b) contacting cationic lipids with the nucleic acid-lipid mixture, thereby forming a charge-neutralized mixture of nucleic acids and lipids; and

(c) removing the detergent from the charge-neutralized mixture to provide the lipid-nucleic acid particles in which the nucleic acids are protected from degradation.

83. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the vinca alkaloid is a member selected from the group consisting of vinblastine, vincristine, and vinorelbine.

84. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the vinca alkaloid is a member selected from the group consisting of vinblastine, vincristine, and vinorelbine.